

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the instant application.

## Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An absorbent polymer structure (Pa), comprising an inner portion as well as an outer portion surrounding the inner portion, wherein the inner portion comprises a crosslinked polymer and the outer portion comprises a crosslinked polymer, wherein the polymer of the outer portion is more strongly cross-linked than the polymer of the inner portion, wherein the polymer of the outer portion is surface crosslinked with an aqueous solution comprising a chemical cross-linker, and an inorganic compound in a dispersed colloidal form, and heating the absorbent polymer structure to a temperature of from about 40 to about 300°C, wherein said inorganic compound is at least partly immobilized in the polymer of the outer portion and wherein the absorbent polymer structure (Pa) has at least one of the following properties:

- (β1) for a CRC of about 26 g/g or less, a SFC of at least about  $80 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β2) for a CRC within the range more than 26 to about 27 g/g or less, a SFC of at least about  $70 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β3) for a CRC within the range more than 27 to less than about 28 g/g a SFC of at least about  $60 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β4) for a CRC within the range more than 28 to less than about 29 g/g a SFC of at least about  $45 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β5) for a CRC within the range more than 29 to less than about 30 g/g a SFC of at least about  $30 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β6) for a CRC within the range more than 30 to less than about 31 g/g a SFC of at least about  $20 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ,
- (β7) for a CRC within the range more than 31 g/g a SFC of at least about  $10 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ .

13. (Previously Presented) An absorbent polymer structure (Pa) according to claim 12, wherein the absorbent polymer structure has an Absorbency against Pressure (AAP) of at least about 18 g/g under a pressure of about 50 g/cm<sup>2</sup>.

14. (Previously Presented) An absorbent polymer structure (Pa) according to claim 12, wherein the inorganic compound is a condensate of polysilicic acids.

15. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising an absorbent polymer structure (Pa) according to claim ~~44~~ 12 and a substrate.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a composite, wherein an absorbent polymer structure (Pa) according to claim ~~44~~ 12 and a substrate and optionally an additive are brought into contact with each other.

17. (Previously Presented) A composite obtainable by a process according to claim 16.

18. (Currently Amended) Chemical products, comprising the absorbent polymer structure (Pa) according to claim ~~44~~ 12.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An aqueous solution containing at least one chemical cross-linker and at least one inorganic compound in dispersed colloidal form.

21. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an aqueous solution according to claim 20, wherein an aqueous solution containing at least one inorganic compound in dispersed colloidal form is mixed with at least one chemical cross-linker.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 21, wherein the chemical cross-linker is used in the form of an aqueous solution.

23. (Previously Presented) An aqueous solution obtainable by a process according to claim 21.

24. (Previously Presented) An aqueous solution according to claim 20, wherein the inorganic compound is in the form of particles comprising polysilicic acid.

Claims 25-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method of treating an untreated absorbent polymer structure comprising:

- (a) bringing at least the outer portion of the untreated absorbent polymer structure into contact with the aqueous solution according to claim 20; and
- (b) heating the absorbent polymer structure at a temperature from about 40° to about 300°C.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said untreated absorbent polymer structure has not been treated with an inorganic compound in dispersed colloidal form.